

100 REASONS FOR HOMES ON Staten Island

As Given by 814 Residents.

(SEE PREFACE)

GREATER NEW YORK EDITION.

REWRITTEN AND ARRANGED BY

GEORGE VON KROMER

Chairman Citizens' Tunnel Committee
of Staten Island.

THIS EDITION CONTAINS:

"A WALK WITH THE WIND,"

By Edwin Markham, one of the
world's greatest poets.

"THE WOMEN OF STATEN ISLAND,"

By Catherine Hardin Sullivan, a
clever writer.

"HISTORY OF STATEN ISLAND,"

By Ira K. Morris, the noted his-
torian.

"HEALTH STATISTICS,"

By Dr. J. Walter Wood, of the
local Board of Health.

"TUNNEL LOGIC,"

"EDITORIAL COMMENT,"

By George Von Kromer.

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NOT COMMONPLACE LIKE OTHER PROPERTIES.

HAMPTON COURT

The most Beautiful and Highest Ground
Sub-division on Staten Island.



Not Commonplace for the Following Reasons:

- 1st—It is on a high hill commanding a magnificent view of the New York Bay and Ocean.
- 2d—It has the magnificent *Light House*, 128 feet high, which will light up the *Am- brose Channel*; and the *Ocean Terrace Boulevard*, the most important in Greater New York, passes along its front.
- 3d—It has finest improvements and is in the direct line of New Ferries and Tunnels now contemplated.
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- 6th—Startling prices \$159.00 up; \$10.00 Cash; \$5.00 monthly.
- 7th—Lots positively sold to refined people only.

How to go—Take at the Battery Staten Island Ferry to St. George, from St. George take Trolley marked "New Dorp."—Or for map, photos and tickets, etc., address City Office.

WILLIAM E. PLATT, 277 Broadway, New York.

Telephone 1954 Worth.

PREFACE.

THE Citizens' Tunnel Committee awarded \$100 for the best 100 reasons for homes on Staten Island, and particularly why people doing business in lower Manhattan should reside here. The committee has received 814 answers, most of which contain several pages closely written. This is stated in order to convey a proper idea of the magnitude of the material treated and the deep interest taken therein by the community at large. The committee takes this opportunity to thank all contributors for their hearty co-operation. In offering the following statements to the public of New York and New Jersey we do so with a clear conscience as to their truth. We have endeavored to be just to the many unequalled advantages of Staten Island, have refrained from too high coloring, and at the same time have tried to eliminate the hundreds of repetitions in these 814 letters containing a multitude of reasons why Staten Island as a place of residence excels all others.

The Citizens' Tunnel Committee,

Rosebank, S. I.

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A WALK WITH THE WIND.

Come with me to the open road
And let the woodland write the ode—
Come, for the hill-wind takes my arm
And laughs away the heart's alarm,
Drawing me on from ridge to ridge,
By field and ford and frosty bridge.
Down from his wide tree-darkened hall
The gray owl sends his Saga call.

And here a field-mouse
leaves his home,
His labyrinthine cata-
comb,
And prints the snow
with little tracks,
Like hackings of an el-
fine ax.

I pass an old long-
moldered fence,
Turned to a rare magnif-
icence,
For gold of lichen and
green of moss
Have paid with beauty
all the loss.—
Ha, landlord Fox, alert
and lithe,
Is out to get his morn-
ing tithe,


With thrifty eye to over-see
His unstaked principality.
Circling, the high crows swing and caw,
Poised by the same impartial law
That traced the orbit of the star
Wide-wandering on the dark afar.

The snows are heaped along the ground,
Bright kingdoms builded without sound.
The cleansed air tingles in my blood,
And joy pours through me like a flood!
I tread on Hellas as I go,
Wrecking her Parthenons of snow;
I sweep across imperial Rome,—
Wasting her glories, dome by dome!
And yonder, at the wind's footfall,
Crashes a jeweled Taj Mahal,
An irised miracle of white,
Built by the spirits of the night!—
And yet those shut-in mortals choose
To peer into the Press for news,
Thinking the great events are hurled
On lightnings round about the world!

Edson Markham

HERE ARE 100 REASONS

[The prizes have been awarded for words
set in CAPITAL LETTERS.]

 ONE of the broadest and most definite reasons for residing on Staten Island is given by a young man, a historical student, who states: "After having been attracted to Staten Island by its numerous HISTORICAL POINTS of interest and RELICS still intact, I remained here because I thoroughly LIKED THE ISLAND AND ITS INHABITANTS." Nothing short of having resided on this BEAUTIFUL ISLAND throughout a year will convince even the most optimistic of the full depth of satisfaction felt upon finding an IDEAL HOME on Staten Island among people who average higher in INTELLIGENCE, people among whom a feeling of GOOD FELLOWSHIP prevails and yet who are people who possess that INDEPENDENCE necessary to make them the BEST CITIZENS of any community.

Official statistics by the Board of Health of Greater New York prove Staten Island to have the LOWEST DEATH RATE, consequently being the HEALTHIEST of the five boroughs, to which may be added a comparative SAFETY FROM EPIDEMICS, as the great majority of houses have sufficient space between them to permit of effective isolation in case of necessity.

The beautiful PANORAMIC VIEW of twenty miles from our HILLS both sea-

ward and inland can not be eclipsed, as we have the HIGHEST ALTITUDE on the entire Atlantic Coast. PLATEAUS AND VALLEYS abound and between them GRAPE RAISING is round to be profitable. The LEVEL open stretches of land on the southern, eastern and northwestern sides of the Island admit of substantial AGRICULTURE. Our farms are the means of LIVELIHOOD FOR MANY and produce everything salable in the market, including LIVE STOCK.

We have the LARGEST CORN, THE BIGGEST APPLES, THE LARGEST AND MOST SOLID TOMATOES, RICHEST MILK, BEST BUTTER, and other articles par-excellence too numerous to mention. Wooded sections are strewn throughout the 48,000 acres of the Island, making it with its wonderful change of foliage a most charming COUNTRY PLACE. Several large LAKES add to its charms and in the winter afford opportunities for unlimited sport, such as SKATING, PLAYING HOCKEY, etc. With a WATER-FRONT OF FIFTY MILES the value of Staten Island to commerce is incalculable; it borders the entire southern, the widest side of the GREATEST HARBOR IN THE WORLD, through the Narrows of which the vessels of all nations pass. It is an actual fact that it is WARMER HERE IN WINTER and COOLER in SUMMER than in any other contiguous locality.

You can lead a country life here if you choose, and yet reach lower Manhattan in less time on the COMMODIOUS MUNICIPAL BOATS than if you lived in the Bronx or Brooklyn. The comfortable and DELIGHTFUL SAIL across

the bay alone attracts thousands who
 RELAX THEIR MINDS AND BODIES 38
 during the trip instead of being packed
 like sardines on the way home, which
 latter is seemingly the fashion now pre-
 vailing everywhere except on the Stat-
 en Island boats. Beside the different
 business men who are here for BUSI-
 NESS REASONS, there are the carpen- 39
 ters and other skilled workmen who
 claim NEVER TO BE IDLE. It is the 40
 part of wisdom to buy land here that
 will INCREASE IN VALUE a few years 41
 hence and make the owner FINANCIAL- 42
 LY INDEPENDENT. Children have all
 the SCHOOL ROOM they need and 43
 plenty of FRESH AIR and PLAY- 44
 GROUND. The healthy rosy cheeked 45
 children of Staten Island are often
 looked upon as curiosities and wonders
 by those ænemic, peevish and over-old
 children of a locality with a more dense
 (any way you like) population. CHIL-
 DREN'S LIVES ARE NOT CONSTANT- 46
 LY ENDANGERED HERE BY A NET-
 WORK OF TROLLEYS. It is true that
 he who builds houses on Staten Island
 often rents or sells them before they are
 finished, a SPLENDID FIELD FOR 47
 CAPITALISTS being thereby offered by
 such a condition. Owning your home
 you are MASTER IN YOUR HOUSE 48
 with none to bother you above or below
 or next door. Comparatively very FEW 49
 FIRES occur on Staten Island. Police
 inspectors and captains have stated that
 Staten Island PEOPLE ARE THE MOST 50
 ORDERLY they have ever seen, and we
 can boast of the ABSENCE OF ROWDY- 51
 ISM AND CRIMES that many other
 places are noted for. At our BEACHES, 52
 THE FINEST on the Atlantic Coast,
 there can be had most invigorating and

healthful **SEA BATHING**. Those whose 53
 habit it is to sojourn at some sea-shore
 during the summer months will find
SPLENDID AND REASONABLE AC- 54
COMMODATIONS at our unexcelled
 beaches, with good **BOATING**, **RESULT-** 55
FUL FISHING, **TRUE CAMPING** and 56
 other enjoyments that make life happy
 and recreative at the sea-shore. Fish-
 ing is most profitable near our shores,
 as great numbers of fishermen who de-
 rive their livelihood therefrom and also
 many fishing clubs can testify. During
 the hunting season rabbits and other
GAME are plentiful. Taking it all in 57
 all, a **GOOD DAY'S SPORT** can be had 58
 here all the year round. Those who
 love **FLOWER GARDENS** or care to 59
 raise **VEGETABLES FOR THEIR OWN** 60
USE WITH SPARE GROUND find here
 all the pleasures and profits that a
FERTILE SOIL can give. 61

NO MOSQUITOES to speak of are on 62
 Staten Island, due to a thorough sys-
 tematic drainage every year of the few
 remaining low lands. If necessary we
 are prepared to give the sworn affidavits
 of hundreds, yes thousands, stating they
 have been born and brought up here and
 have **NEVER BEEN SICK A DAY IN** 63
THEIR LIVES. **MALARIA, THAT** 64
DREADED DISEASE OF OTHER
PLACES, IS PRACTICALLY UN-
KNOWN on Staten Island. We have
 without doubt the clearest and **PUREST** 65
DRINKING WATER on the southern,
 eastern and middle sections that can be
 found in the States of New York and
 New Jersey. The North Shore water
 works, for which an appropriation of
 \$1,100,000 has been voted by the Board
 of Estimate and Apportionment, will
 soon be taken over by the city and the

water in quantity and quality be brought up to the standard of the other. There are many who have bought homes and found THE PRICE OF LAND 66 HERE MORE REASONABLE than elsewhere, at the same time being NEAR 67 ENOUGH TO THE CITY for business reasons and YET FAR ENOUGH AWAY 68 for home and family reasons. The supply of life's necessities being abundant and the demand moderate make the EXPENSE OF LIVING HERE LESS 69 THAN IN MANY OTHER PLACES. The pleasure and profit derived from being able to keep POULTRY, HORSE AND 70 CARRIAGE, etc., at moderate expense 71 are not to be under-estimated and are another source of enjoyment on Staten Island that for various reasons are prohibited in congested centres.

Not a few are now buying land on Staten Island so that their children may at maturity gain their COMPETENCE. 72 The average price per lot of 25 by 100 feet being \$200, you may compare this with the average price of \$10,000 per lot in the Bronx, miles further away from lower Manhattan, and you will arrive at the conclusion that INVESTING 73 YOUR MONEY RIGHT NOW IN A HOME ON STATEN ISLAND IS THE MOST PROFITABLE PIECE OF BUSINESS you will ever have the opportunity to transact. We advise you, dear reader, as man to man, for your own best interests, and circumstances permitting, to take advantage of the opportunities here afforded.

The TUNNELS soon to be built to 74 connect Staten Island with the other boroughs of New York City and New Jersey will not alone FURTHER EN- 75 HANCE THE VALUE of property, but

will also enable business men of lower Manhattan and others to reach any section of the Island in less than 15 minutes. We have more space to live in, thus affording more comfortable home life; our quarters are more **SANITARY** 76 because of lots of **SUNSHINE** and 77 **FRESH AIR**, which are productive of the **BEST HEALTH**. 78 79

On our picturesque Island there is **ABSENT ALL THE YEAR ROUND** 80 **THE CONSTANT NOISE OF A CITY** with its wear and tear on the nerves. On rainy days we have not the sticky slush and mud that cover the streets of New York and adjacent places. We have the **FINEST** and **CLEANEST** 81 **STREETS** and highways found any- 82 where. Thousands of automobilists traverse the length of the Island every fine day as part of a **STRAIGHT ROAD** 83 **TO PHILADELPHIA**. Our Fox Hills and Country Club **GOLF LINKS ARE** 84 **CONCEDED TO BE THE FINEST** in the country. **GREAT MANUFACTURING** 85 **INDUSTRIES** have improved the extreme northwestern portion of the Island and give employment to many thousands of workmen. Staten Island, with an area of three times that of Manhattan, can harbor many times over the present bulk of manufacturing plants without the inhabitants necessarily becoming aware of their existence.

Among our 250 **ORGANIZATIONS** are 86 represented unions of all kinds, fraternal orders, civic, business and social associations, and sporting and other clubs of great variety. Therefore people here need never feel the want of social intercourse.

A great pride are our **EIGHTY** 87

CHURCHES of every religious belief, with the best of choirs and good attendance. This speaks well for the general GOOD CHARACTER of Staten Islanders. 88

As 99½ per cent of our houses are in the style of cottages, THE MISERY ATTENDING UNSIGHTLY TENEMENT HOUSES IS ABSENT. 89

The ABSENCE OF SHOW PLACES with the degenerating influences upon old and young is to a great extent the cause of the GREATER MORALITY that exists among people on Staten Island, and a place in which social conditions will make better men and women of children morally, will make them STRONGER MENTALLY and PHYSICALLY. 90 91 / 92 93

Our typical Americans are men and women with homes in the full sense of being their own selection, adornment and ownership. That being one of the first and most vital Americanisms, it therefore becomes self-evident that the average Staten Islanders are by choice and environment more uniformly and TRULY AMERICANS. The occupants of a house here are possessors of a REAL AMERICAN HOME. 94 95

After careful search through railroad statistics we find that of the railroad accidents of Greater New York only ONE-TENTH OF ONE PER CENT OCCUR HERE, whereas our 80,000 inhabitants are entitled to three per cent of these accidents, should they so choose. We can therefore assure visitors and prospective residents almost entire IMMUNITY FROM DANGERS incidental to travel when using our public utilities. Often the initiated come to STATEN ISLAND FOR THEIR HEALTH'S sake, and after becoming acquainted with the 96 97 98

NATURAL ADVANTAGES of our beautiful Island verbally express the written assertion made by a resident that he 'WOULD NOT LIVE IN NEW YORK, 100 BROOKLYN OR NEW JERSEY RENT FREE.'

Respectfully submitted,
The Citizens' Tunnel Committee.

THE WOMEN OF STATEN ISLAND.

[By Katherine Hardin Sullivan.]

A clever woman when invited to address a prominent club recently on the subject of "Women as Journalists," somewhat surprised her audience by announcing that a journalistic career of thirty years, most of which time she had headed a large staff, had only impressed upon her the truth of the proverb, "By your works shall ye be known."



She found that the larger part of the work that had been cleverly, conscientiously, and adequately performed, she could trace to her women employees and her experience invariably taught her that these women journalists having, like Mother Eve, taken the initiative in securing the apple, always found plenty of Ad-

ams to partake of the enjoyment thereof.

While few of Staten Island's women are journalists, it is nevertheless by their works that they are known. Staten Island harbors among her beautiful hills many women of

rare attainments, who play no small part in rendering our local society one of cultivation and refinement, which is such a desirable element in every locality. Some of our women are prominent in the affairs of the day, others are engaged in flourishing industries, others superintend our public institutions, more pursue the time-honored professions, and most of all, are those noble heroines of the home who forego the stimulus of public adulation, whose victories over the indomitable Satan of Self, whose unsung patience, forbearance and sacrifice in the rearing of their families, are more glorious, more effectual, more enduring, than the heralded victories of war.

Is it not Socrates who tells us that the highest honor a nation can attain is for it to become known as a land of homes? Such are the laurels which lay at the feet of Staten Island's womanhood. Our Island is not celebrated as a huge manufacturing or industrial section, but purely as a residential home section, which is its greatest tribute to its women.

Moreover, our two magnificent hospitals whose equipment and management cannot be surpassed in the world are superintended and managed by women. Our only Day Nurseries are maintained through the philanthropic departments of women's clubs. The "Woman's Club of Staten Island" has for hire the only available reception rooms of high standard on the Island. Two members of the local Board of Education are women. Here as elsewhere most of the teachers in the schools are women, and the "Richmond County Woman Teachers' Association" is a fitting monument to their competency and integrity.

That indefatigable agency for the promotion of the interests of womanhood—namely, Women's Clubs—had not until recent

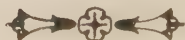
years pervaded this community to any appreciable extent; but with the march of progress, general in all lines on Staten Island of late, it is rapidly developing to be a potent factor.

A very subtle but positive tribute to the citizenship of our women is, that while more than one-half of the real property in Richmond County is owned by women, the delinquent tax list contains less than ten per cent of feminine nomenclature.

The opportunity herewith afforded by the Citizens' Tunnel Committee to the women of Staten Island to call to public attention the steady and unquestionable though quiet progress being made by them, is hailed with enthusiasm as one step more toward that ultimate goal when our fathers, sons and husbands will consider us at least as intelligent as our lackeys, at least as conscientious as the almost daily transgressors of public trusts throughout the land, at least as deserving as those poor moral unfortunates who fill our public prisons and after release are accepted to participate in the sacred privilege of government in which we are deprived of a voice.

From a woman's point of view we are hoping that another decade will have seen that the men of Staten Island as well as those of the rest of our glorious country, have made as rapid strides in progress as the past decade has seen our women make, at which time we shall be equal citizens in glory and welfare as we are to-day in responsibility and tax burden.

Helene Lardin Sullivan

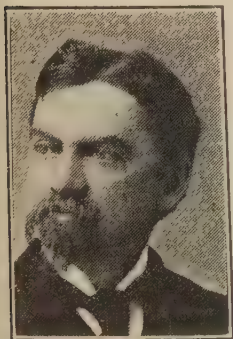


IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS.

Being a Condensed Excerpt from a Text-Book Now in Course of Preparation, by **IRA K. MORRIS**, Author of "Morris's Memorial History of Staten Island," "Life and Times of Aaron Burr," etc., etc., etc.

(Copyright, 1908.)

It is a fact that there is no other location on the continent of North America, possessing equal dimensions and population, that will compare with Staten Island, in respect to its great number of important historical events. Its geographical position is responsible for this. From the great mass of subjects (the limited space afforded by this publication preventing fuller details), the following are selected:



1524.—The Bay of New York, together with Staten Island, was discovered by Jean de Verrazzani, a Florentine, in the service of France. It does not appear, however, that Francis I., the monarch under whom the discovery was made, ever took advantage of it, or laid

claim to the territory adjacent, in consequence of de Verrazzani's exploration.

1609, September 3.—Henry Hudson entered the Narrows, and anchored in precisely the same place as did Verrazzani. Hudson was in the service of Dutch merchants. He

named Staaten Eylandt in honor of the States General of Holland.

1612.—Dutch block-house erected at the Narrows. It has remained a military post ever since.

1613.—A tendency to locate on Staten Island and by the Dutch. Provisional government not established, however, until 1624. First settlement at Oude Dorp (now Arrochar Park.)

1625, June 9.—Sarah Rapelje first child born on Staten Island.

1630-'36-'41-'57-'70.—Successive purchases of Staten Island from the Indians.

1650.—Stony Brook settled by Waldensians. First church erected at that place.

1655.—Was fought the memorable "Peach War."

1658, Christmas Eve.—Landing of the Huguenots, foot of New Dorp Lane.

1659.—William LaBlant settled at Long Neck (now New Springville.) As William Simon (LaBlant's) son," he was the founder of the Simonson family in America.

1660.—Fresh Kill settled by French Huguenots.

1663, April 23.—First grant of land under English rule.

1664.—The stealing of swine led to a fierce war between the Dutch and Indians. Dutch government supplanted by English. English capture block-house at The Narrows. Charles II., regardless of Holland's claims, granted Duke of York all of New Netherlands, including Staten Island.

1666.—Johannas de Decker, a commissioner, exhibiting independence of character was ordered to leave Staten Island.

1668.—Captain Christopher Billopp, commanding the ship "Bentley," accepted proposition to decide jurisdiction of Staten Island, by sailing around it within a given

time, thus practically transferring it from New Jersey to New York.

1670.—Final extinction of Indian claims on Staten Island. Dutch sent to Holland for a minister.

1682.—Settlement of "Cucklestown" (now Richmond.) About that date erection of Dutch Reformed Church.

1683.—County of Richmond organized. Stony Brook becomes County Seat. Court House and Jail erected. Thomas Dongan became Governor; came to Staten Island to reside.

1688.—Richmond County divided into four towns—Casiltowne, Northfield, Southfield, and Westfield.

1696.—Tradition to the effect that Captain Kidd buried treasure on Staten Island.

1710.—St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church erected at Cucklestown. One of the four churches established in America by Queen Anne.

1728.—Second County Court House erected at Cucklestown. Name of village changed to Richmond.

1729.—County Seat removed from Stony Brook to Richmond.

1760.—War in Canada closed. British regular army came to New Dorp to rest.

1761, August 28.—General Amhurst invested with the "Order of the Bath," at New Dorp, by General Robert Monckton.

1771.—Francis Asbury preached at Woodrow, at the house of Peter Van Pelt.

1776.—Americans, under Colonel Hurd, evacuated Staten Island. July 3, the British, under Sir William Howe, arrived in Lower Bay. Took possession of the Island. Howe and his generals first read the Declaration of Independence in the Rose and Crown farm-house, New Dorp. Battle of Long Island planned in Rose and Crown, Admiral Howe present. September 6, con-

ference in the Billopp house by British and American commissioners.

1778. — Court House, Dutch Reformed Church and several buildings burned at Richmond, by order of Lieutenant-Colonel Sincoe, of the Queen's Rangers.

1780, June.—Council of War held in the "Old Latourette House," on the hill near Richmond, in which was planned Baron Knyphausen's invasion of New Jersey and the battles of Springfield and Dutch Farms. Same house was once the home of the Holmeses, the ancestors of Nancy Hanks and Abraham Lincoln.

1781.—Major John Andre, the British spy, wrote his will in the old Cucklesown Inn, at Richmond.

1783, September 25.—British forces evacuated Staten Island. Sir Guy Carleton, headquarters at New Dorp, was in command. Several Staten Island families of Loyalists, including the Billopps, the Bedellis, the Seamans, the Housmans, the Joneses, and others, left their native homes and took up lands in Canada and elsewhere.

1794.—Erection of the third County Court House. Still standing, part of a hotel in Richmond. Occupied until 1837, when the present Court House was built.

1812.—Forts Tompkins and Richmond built on the heights of The Narrows. Reservation sold by State to the General Government in 1847.

1816.—Daniel D. Tompkins, Vice-President of the United States, removed to Staten Island, and founded the village of Tompkinsville.

1826.—"Sam," the last but one of the tribe of native Aquehonga Indians, died, and was buried in the French grave-yard at Marshland. His daughter, Nancy, died shortly afterward in the County Alms House.

1827, October.—The "Richmond Republi-

can." the first newspaper published on Staten Island, established by Charles N. Baldwin at Tompkinsville.

1833, August 1.—Sailors' Snug Harbor at New Brighton, dedicated and opened for the reception of inmates.

1836, September 14.—Aaron Burr, lieutenant-colonel in the Continental Army, United States Senator, Vice-President of the United States, Attorney-General of New York, and America's leading lawyer, died in the Port Richmond Hotel.

1837.—William Emerson settled at Dutch Farnis, and in 1841 became County Judge. His brother, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and his friend, Charles D. Thoreau, made their home at "The Snuggery," the family residence, much of the time.

1838, September.—Staten Island's first bank was established in Port Richmond.

1849.—General Santa Anna, dethroned Emperor of Mexico, came to Staten Island to reside; he occupied the DuBois house on Manor Road.

1851.—Work commenced on Staten Island railroad. Completed in 1860. General Joseph Garibaldi came to Staten Island; remained two years.

1856.—General John C. Fremont, first Republican candidate for President, had his headquarters at Stapleton.

1863.—First horse railroad on Staten Island, from Fort Wadsworth to Port Richmond.

1875.—William Page, the famous artist, then residing near Tottenville, completed the celebrated paintings of Grant and Farragut.

1878, Christmas.—Dongan Manor House, West New Brighton, destroyed by fire.

1881.—Hon. Henry B. Metcalfe died at his home at Green Ridge. He was County

Judge and Surrogate from 1840 to 1875. Later he was Member of Congress.

1883.—Bi-centennial celebration of Richmond County. Rapid Transit Railroad organized by Erastus Wiman.

1889.—Prohibition Park established. First electric railroad on the Island.

1890.—Commencement of good roads system.

1898.—Staten Island became the Borough of Richmond, in the City of New York.

1904, May 2.—Corner-stone of Borough Building at St. George laid with imposing ceremonies. Dedicated May 2, 1906.

1906, January.—Municipal ferry began operations.

1907.—Near the close of the year, preliminary arrangements commenced for the erection of the grand ferry approach at St. George.

Erastus Wiman



HEALTHFULNESS OF STATEN ISLAND.

[By Dr. J. Walter Wood.]

Staten Island is an ideal residential place, with its altitude, its hills and valleys giving a natural drainage, and its ocean-breezes. Even the City authorities were going to establish a large hospital here, for tuberculosis, on account of the healthfulness of our locality. Our death-rate from tuberculosis is materially higher than it should be, on



account of the large number of deaths reported from St. Vincent's Sanitarium, where there are at least 50 cases of tuberculosis constantly under treatment, the larger proportion of whom are residents of one of the other Boroughs. Of the 142 deaths of tuberculosis-pulmonalis reported during the past year, 56 of them died at the

St. Vincent's Sanitarium, 17 of whom only were residents of this County. Heart disease and Bright's disease are gradually on the increase, as they are, in and near all of the centers of population, and this is indicative of the rapid pace we are living.

We had 148 deaths from organic heart disease, and 124 from Bright's disease. The number of cases of contagious and communicable diseases reported, together with the mortality, gives us a pretty accurate index of the health of this community. Every possible precaution is taken to conserve the health of the people. We have numerous school inspectors and nurses who examine

the children in our schools every day. The schools and churches are notified of any contagious or communicable disease existing. Fumigation is thoroughly carried out by competent men, and sterilization of infected goods is done at an up-to-date sterilizing plant.

Every possible precaution is taken to prevent the spread of contagious and communicable diseases. As a native, a resident, and a practicing physician of medicine and surgery since 1881, I can give the Borough of Richmond as clean a bill of health as can be found anywhere.

The estimated population of the Borough of Richmond for the year 1908 is 76,688. For the year 1907, we had reported to the Bureau of Records 594 marriages, 2,005 births, and 1,607 deaths. Of the deaths 629 were reported as having occurred in institutions, a very large proportion of whom were non-residents. By deducting these deaths of non-residents we get a very low percentage of mortality. This low death rate is no more than one would naturally expect who is acquainted with the topography of our County, which is conducive to healthfulness and longevity. You will find more very old people in proportion to our population than anywhere else in the State.

Of the 1,607 deaths occurring in the year 1907, 465 were under 5 years of age, and 386 were over 65, and 279 over 70 years of age.

Richmond County has been much maligned for a number of years as being a district saturated with malaria. Nothing, however, could be further from the truth. In 1881 I began the practice of medicine in Morris County, New Jersey, and during my two years' stay there found as much again malaria in the hills of New Jersey as I have found on Staten Island. It is an undoubted fact, that the mosquito transmits malaria,

yet this pest will soon become a thing of the past, through the untiring and successful efforts of the Health Officer of the Port, Dr. Alvah H. Doty.

Very few cases of malaria are reported to the Department of Health, and only very occasionally have we a death from malaria, at the Marine Hospital, of some sailor who contracted the disease in the Tropics.

Walter Hodge, M.D.

TUNNEL LOGIC FROM THE START.

[By George Von Kromer.]

NOT copyrighted--Use it early and often.

For over eight years Richmond Borough has borne its proportionate share of taxes for ALL City subways. Bonds in part for which our entire territory is obligated, are issued by Greater New York, and the proceeds used for subway construction. It therefore becomes apparent to fair-minded



citizens that as a matter of JUSTICE ALONE Richmond Borough ought to receive its rightful share in the City's distribution of Subways and Tunnels.

Present and other contemplated Subways trend to populate localities OUTSIDE and at the expense of Greater New York. Tunnels to Richmond Borough will retain citizens of Greater New York and

offer NO possibility of supplying outside districts with our tax-payers. The latter may

be done AFTER the City is populated to its limits.

Richmond Borough is an ideal place for residence, and quick traffic service would make it possible for millions of people to enjoy a SUPERIOR HEALTH that nearly 80,000 inhabitants of the Borough now possess, as well as being able to reach business centres of Manhattan and Brooklyn within fifteen minutes from by far the larger portion of the Borough without change of seat.

Through increase of taxable values, due to steady development of the 48,000 acres of land in Richmond Borough, the City would be furnished with funds sufficient to build all needed Subways.

Although entirely in sympathy with the right of citizens in congested parts of the City to further transportation facilities, we realize that the neglect of such a vast and beautiful Borough as Richmond is NOTHING SHORT OF CRIMINAL. We are aware that our Borough offers a practical relief from present shameful traffic as well as population congestion in the City, and therefore, in behalf of the citizens of Greater New York, it is demanded that a Tunnel or Tunnels to Richmond be built forthwith. This demand on these numerous and just grounds has been made of the Public Service Commission and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, the two bodies who control the traffic situation of Greater New York.

The natural result of building Tunnels to Richmond Borough would be a large influx of population that will cause the erection of a great number of houses and a relative decrease in taxes to individual tax-payers.

Divided burdens of tax-payers and a building boom would lower rents to tenants and give employment to a vast army of me-

chanics, who together with the increased population will greatly benefit businessmen.

A period of long lasting prosperity for Richmond Borough will follow the building of Tunnels thereto. In consequence, the benefits that Greater New York will derive commercially from our fifty miles of deep-sea water-front and of the residential possibilities to millions of people, are incalculable.

George Von Kromer.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Suffering to be misunderstood is better than misunderstanding the purpose of your existence.

Deserving of Support.

The local papers, from the beginning of active work on the Tunnel project, have given their support to this great improvement. Show your appreciation by supporting these local publications, without which no community can prosper. If you are not a subscriber to any, subscribe now to one or all. It will pay you.

Business Announcements.

We beg leave to draw attention to the business advertisements of prominent and up-to-date merchants in this publication. The real estate announcements are from brokers who, by their upright dealings and reliable execution of real estate operations, have shown that they are entitled to the confidence of the public.

An Adage.

Never explain: your friends do not need it, and your enemies will not believe you, anyway.—Fra Elbertus.

The above adage is one that should be heeded more by those who, after having performed a meritorious public or private service, find themselves attacked by unscrupulous persons unable or unwilling to do their bit and seeking to question the motives of those who are taking more than a half interest in public or private affairs. "Be sure you are right, then go ahead," is a proverb that might well go hand in hand with the one afore-mentioned.

MISFITS.

The man who marries a woman and makes her a drudge instead of a companion and helpmate, is a misfit husband.

The man who becomes the father of a large family of children whom he cannot support is a misfit father.

He who spends his time in "knocking" his own country or locality is a misfit citizen.

The man who joins an organization and everlastingly finds fault with it is a misfit member.

The clergyman who cannot keep his congregation from going to sleep is a misfit preacher.

The newspaper editor who thinks his readers are interested in nothing but the crimes of mankind is a misfit journalist.

The Staten Islander who fails to tell his friends elsewhere of the unequalled beauties and natural advantages of Richmond Borough, is a misfit resident.

And if the majority of you, kind readers, fail to appreciate the sentiments in this article, it is then a misfit, also.

Advantageous Opportunities.

There is no place close to Manhattan that offers so many advantages to the investor or home-seeker as Staten Island. Its large area contains more virgin territory than any Borough in Greater New York, and proper development can be carried out under exceedingly favorable conditions.

Edward A. Johnson, manager of the New York and Richmond Land Improvement Company, sounded the right keynote when he said that "People are daily becoming more alive to the fact that every inch of Staten Island lies within the corporate limits of Greater New York, and that the problem of quick transit is assuming a shape that will soon place Richmond in the front rank as a desirable section."

A recent purchaser of land expressed his views in these words: "This is really delightful. From what we had heard we had no idea that Staten Island was so attractive."

PROGRESS.

A civic movement is under way to enter a field that has long been neglected by our citizens. The object of this organization, which may aptly be termed the "Progressive Alliance," is to advocate and compel truthfulness in statements of a general or specific character regarding Staten Island, and to resent anything derogatory to our beautiful Borough. That it is deemed necessary to form such an association, is to be deplored in view of the numerous existing civic organizations, inclining toward inactivity in that respect. At the same time the motives which actuate the promoters of the new organization, give rise to the hope that at last Staten Island will come to her own, in so far as favorable attention by the mul-

titude of people in Greater New York is concerned.

The general line of campaigning, inaugurated by the Citizens' Tunnel Committee for the best interests of Staten Island, seems to have had a good effect, and we hope lasting results will be felt in awakening others to their duty as citizens of the **most advantageous locality in the world.**

Regarding Credit.

This committee welcome all and will publicly appreciate those who will do some **LIVE, ACTIVE WORK** for the project of Tunnels to Richmond Borough.

We will continue to persistently advocate the enterprise **UNTIL REALIZED**, carrying out the duty with which we are charged by over 6,000 **CITIZENS**, whose interests are the incentive for the activity of this committee.

Now that a Tunnel is likely to be built, we believe that the greatest credit should be bestowed upon those citizens who have shown their **PUBLIC SPIRIT** by materially helping this committee **FROM THE START.**

In regard to **FURTHER** credit, when Tunnels will have become a reality, **DUE CREDIT** should be given to those who have **DONE SOMETHING** to help the cause along.

For **STILL FURTHER** credit to any one man, or set of men, let it suffice to say: There is plenty of credit and enough honors to go around. Just help yourself.

That old admonition, "Treat your neighbor as you wish him to treat you," is still young enough to find an appropriate place here.

MORBID SENTIMENTS.

With a Moral.

Since death is no joke to the great majority of us, it is admitted to be quite a serious matter to die. A certain anxiety is felt by even those who confess or profess to admit of no really sinful performances in the past, but nevertheless would gladly join with the Lord in either forgiving or forgetting one's own minor indiscretions.

But apart from the individual pangs of remorse felt undoubtedly by some at death-bed-time, these same people may be consoled by considering that dying is a very popular thing. In the eyes of many, not until dead are most of us somebody. Few go to see a man born, but the community turns out to see him die or buried.

The anxiety felt by a family at one's birth gives way to a hideously morbid enjoyment of multitudes who are attracted by the hideous spectacle of a hanging, for example, and who seem to derive pleasure or satisfaction therefrom. Such an event appeals to those who have their nerves under sufficient control, is more spectacular and less expensive than a circus, possesses grizzly human interest to a distinctive degree, and at times is presumably just.

What the mental make-up of certain people is, that attracts them to the natural or enforced death of a person (both being 99 per cent murder, thoughtlessly self-inflicted, or through outside agencies), is indefinable, and for the want of better words must be charged up to human nature, an expression used in the attempt to cover a multitude of sins that flesh is heir to.

It is the sad, sacred, and loving duty of the family to take part in the funeral rites of one of their number. There are, how-

ever, many people who attend funerals of persons whose death was the only introduction needed to initiate intimate acquaintance with the family thereafter. Such people may properly be called crape-chasers. No one will question their existence. Their motives are gossip and other equally unimportant matters, having their origin in fungi of mind. Nobody has yet denied the right of these crape-chasers to their sport, the same as some mortals have a right to die prematurely after committing crimes against hygiene or some present laws of the country. Both types are prevalent, and breed best in congested cities, their possessors either being of originally diseased mind or unconsciously emulating others until affected.

Such a morbid mental and physical condition should not exist if the welfare of the race is to be considered. The remedy lies in better environments. Plenty of fresh air with spacious grounds and sensible living, bringing the mental and physical abnormality herein mentioned back to nature, are the best antidotes.

Moral: Reside on Staten Island, where health-giving surroundings prevent morbid sentimentality and moral or physical degeneracy to exist, and will not permit to exist while the Island is this side of the 2,000,000 population mark. God's free nature is the best place to raise healthy families, both mentally and physically.



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The Committee appeals to all residents for their help in the proper distribution of these booklets.

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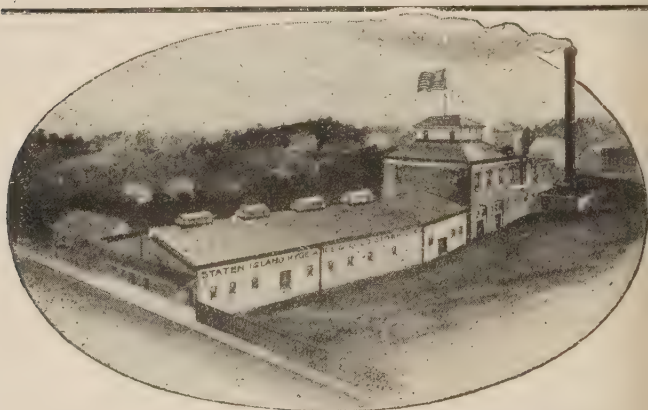
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
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
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THE CITIZENS' TUNNEL COMMITTEE,

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Here are a few of our public-spirited citizens who have materially supported this Committee and who have forcefully brought the Tunnel issue to the front.

In behalf of the people of Staten Island we herewith thank them one and all for their co-operation.

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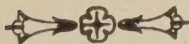
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